00372

1972/06/17

PRIVACY CHANNEL ~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE June 17, 1972

ACTION: THE WHITE HOUSE 0103

EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER FROM BUNKER

REFS: A) WHS 2077; B) SAIGON 00102

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Thieu, June 17, 1972.

1. Troop Withdrawals: I informed President Thieu of the President's thinking with respect to the next troop withdrawal, i. e., that the President would announce during the last week in June a drawdown of another 10,000 U. S. forces during the two month period July/August, an average of 5,000 a month for each month. The announcement would also include a statement to the effect that no more draftees will be sent involuntarily to Viet-Nam.

2. Thieu found no problem with this proposal and is agreeable to announcement.

3. Paris Negotiations: I informed Thieu also of proposed game plan as outlined paragraphs 3 and 4, ref A. I said that the President wished me to assure him of the President's continued support and that we have no intention of conceding to the enemy at the negotiating table what he has been unable to achieve on the battlefield. I emphasized the need to enlist maximum domestic support through a combination of forceful action on the battlefield combined with flexibility on the negotiating front.

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

AMB:EBunker:ek ~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE
6/17/72.

MR 95-74, #2; State letter 3/11/96
By LH NARA Date 1/22/97

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4. Thieu said that he understood this need and that the game plan as outlined is entirely agreeable to him.

5. Warm regards.

BUNKER

EB

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